Resurrection Lutheran Church

January 2026

Resurrection Report

Our mission: Being an example of God's acceptance and grace to all

To my siblings in Christ,

What is the point of being a Christian? The answer that many may think of is that it's about going to heaven when we die. Though this certainty of comfort on the other side of death is true, it is not the point of being a Christian. Especially for us as Lutherans, God's grace makes this form of salvation an unavoidable outcome. It is a foundational condition of the Good News not the point of it.

Being a Christian is about the here-and-now. The point of being a Christian is the eternal, Spirit filled life we are given to live today. The point is that God, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, has parted the sea of all that keeps us from God. It is all already out of the way. In Jesus we also find the sea that crashes down and drowns the armies and pharaohs of all that chases us and wants to own and control us. All that binds, breaks, and suffocates us in our daily life has already been sent to the bottom of the sea. Here too, in Jesus, we find the land into which we are passing. In Jesus, by the working of the Holy Spirit in us, we stand in the kingdom of God now.

As Christians we live into and out of the kingdom of God as something that is real and already accessible. There is a source of eternal life that reveals a truer understanding of who we are. It is a source that changes how we see the world, how we understand other people, what we prioritize and serve in the day-to-day, and which games and rules we follow and which we abandon and break. It is a life that doesn't just promise a future, but a life that delivers the promised gifts of God in the here-and-now.



Rev. William H. Smith

Let us use the Exodus analogy again. Jesus is the parting of the sea of all that keeps us from God already, yet that sea still there, still churning, still wanting to drowned us. In another way, Jesus is the sea that swallows all the armies and pharaohs of this world that want to enslave us, but those armies still fight to conquer, and those pharaohs are still consumed by the need to have power that is over others. Jesus also is our promised land and our homecoming already, but we live into and out of that in a world where we still find ourselves wandering in the desert with the Hebrews: still hungering, still thirsty, still on the journey. It is the state of things we call the "already not yet."

For Christians, there is so much that this awareness changes. I will note two of them here. First, the already part of the kingdom of God is not a lay away program or a system where Jesus keeps giving us IOU slips along life's way. We draw hope and strength from the promise of Jesus' return and the full revelation of God's kingdom to all of creation, but we are also given to receive from that kingdom now. That kingdom pours out into the world and works

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

in us such things as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It wells up by producing endurance out of suffering, and character out of endurance, and from character a hope that does not disappoint. It is a life that holds us.

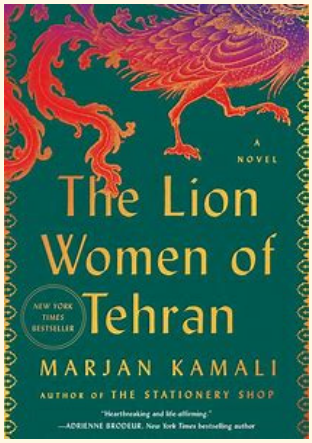
Secondly, we live that life differently, not because we have to earn something from God, or maintain our status as "saved", or to keep ourselves separate, clean, and holier. We live differently because that life changes us. The more we live into and out of it the more our lives become a response of gratitude for what God has already made sure for us in Jesus. We live as a response to the gift, set free to practice living, and serving the kingdom of God and its impact on the people and world around us.

It is that cause for our participating in the kingdom coming into other's lives that changes the purpose and meaning of evangelism. We are not playing a numbers game where we are required to save as many people as we can from the fire of hell. We are not in the business of saving people. That is Jesus' job. We are not in the business of bringing people to faith. That is the Holy Spirit's job. No, we are in the business of living the life of the kingdom now. Set free, claimed, and loved on God's terms, the more we lean into the kingdom and its gifts the more that kingdom and its gifts pour out of us into the world and people around us. Suddenly, you and your life serve to reveal and impact others with the experience of what the kingdom has to offer of identity, belonging, worth, and purpose. Suddenly, they are given to know that there is love, there is hope, there is joy, there is peace which they are not responsible for producing but which can hold them.

The already not yet of this life into and out of the kingdom of God is the point of being a Christian.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith





Thursday, January 8th at 6:30pm at Resurrection. Kelley Bawmann is hosting this month as we discuss "*The Lion Women of Tehran*". Please RSVP to Kelley at 603-365-7851.

Please remember to bring diapers or a children's book for our mission "Baby's Closet"

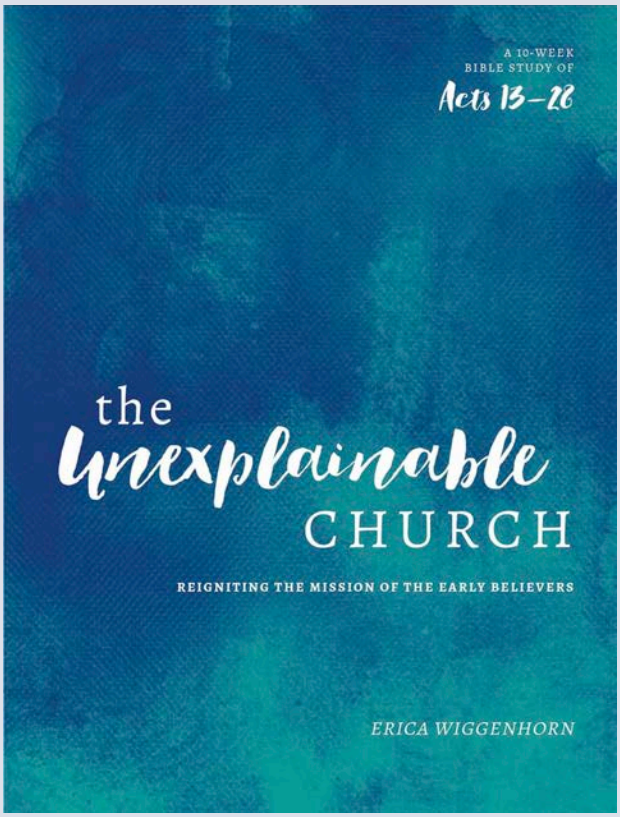
Our next book for February 5th will be "*The Berry Pickers".*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our women's bible study will resume on Monday, January 12th at 10:30am.

We will be studying the book *"The Unexplainable Church"* by Erica Wiggenhorn. Brenda Mundroff will lead this 12-week study on the Acts 15-28. All women are invited to attend.

Please complete the study for the first week so that it can be discussed on January 12th.



Just Neighbors

INTERFAITH HOMELESS NETWORK

Our next rotation to provide meals for Just Neighbors is Sunday, February 8th to Friday, February 13th.

Food must be taken to the administration building (2925 E. State Blvd) rather than the adjoining house. Please be sure all foods are in disposable containers.

You may drop off the food anytime on your chosen day before 5 PM.

The exact number of guests will be provided as the dates draw closer. Current guest numbers are updated daily on the Just Neighbors website. Go to: **ihnfamily.org**

You are welcome to take a whole meal by yourself or partner with someone and coordinate your meal together. You may also reach out to local restaurants to see if they would offer special pricing for meals for this worthy cause. If you use a restaurant, you would still be responsible for ensuring delivery of the meal to JNIHN.

Thank you for being a blessing!

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Volunteering





The youth volunteered at Salvation Army for the Angel Tree Program. We had 18 youth and 5 adults attend. We loaded up the gifts purchased by the congregation, the youth brought gift cards for the teenagers and we had 6 tags left on the Angel Tree so we used the Restricted Pastors Helping Hand Fund to purchase a coat, an outfit, and a couple of toys for each of those children.

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes Resume in January. Dates are January 25th, February 22nd, April 12th and May 17th. We will meet in the youth room from 11-12:00. Classes are for 6-9 graders, anyone who hasn't been confirmed or anyone who wants to join us. We often have confirmed youth join us because they like it. ALL are welcome, including non-members.

Activities

The youth had their Christmas Bingo Party in December. Our Bingo events originated because of Covid. In trying to figure out how to continue to communicate and support the youth, I did a virtual Bingo. It was such a hit that we kept doing it through Covid and have continued after. It is always fun, loud and a little crazy, but I am told I am too, for working with youth that is.





Unfortunately, Sue is going to need another shoulder surgery because the first one failed and there is now more damage than before surgery. We do not have a date yet, but this will require Sue to be off for a bit. We are moving the Youth Retreat to the fall and hope that for other events, if needed, a parent or a couple parents could help Pastor Will so that we don't have to cancel other meetings or events. Once we know when the surgery will be, we will let you know if help is needed.

Coming Up

We will be going to Crazy Pinz on Sunday January 11th from 11:30-1:30. We will have lunch, arcade cards and activities. Cost is $15. As always, we do not want youth to not come if money is an issue. Contact Sue with any questions.

On January 18th from 11-1 we will be making tie blankets for the homeless. All supplies will be provided.

Kroger Community Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? If so, did you know you can help support the youth group by being a Kroger Plus member and designating Resurrection as your organization to donate to? If you are already a Kroger Plus member, simply go to **www.krogercommunityrewards.com** search for Resurrection Lutheran Church and select that and then enroll. If you are not already a Kroger Plus member you can sign up at **www.kroger.com** or at the customer service desk at any Kroger. Resurrection then receives a quarterly check of 3% of what enrolled members spend on groceries and prescriptions! This amounts to between $400 and $800 per year for the youth. Thank you for your support!

Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. On January 25th and February 1st, the youth will be collecting money and canned goods for St. Mathew's Food Bank before and after service. There will be a pot for each team and one for those who don't care who wins but would still like to donate to the cause.

Youth Calendar 2026

January 11	Crazy Pinz We will be having lunch there. Cost is $15.	11:30am-1:30pm
January 18	Making Tie Blankets	11am-1pm
January 25	Confirmation	11am-12pm
February 13	Valentines Bingo	6-8 pm
February 6-8	Youth Retreat	POSTPONED
February 13	Valentines Bingo	6-8pm
February 15	Congregational Meeting	11am-1pm
February 18	Ash Wednesday Dinner Fundraiser	5-7pm
February 18	Ash Wednesday Service	7-8 pm
February 22	Confirmation	11-12pm
March 1	TBD	TBD
March 6-8	Winter Retreat Pokagon State Park	Fri 5pm-Sun 11am
March 15	TBD	TBD
March 20	Easter Glow	8-10pm
March 29	Palm Sunday Service	9:30am
April 2	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30-8:00pm
April 3	Good Friday Service	8:00pm
April 5	Easter Sunday Service	9:30am
April 12	Confirmation	11am-12pm
April 18 or 19	TBD	TBD
April 26	TBD	TBD
May 3	TBD	TBD
May 17	Confirmation	11am-1pm
June	Camp for 6-9 grade	TBD
July 19 or 20 to July 24 or 25	Youth Service Trip	TBD

STEPHEN MINISTRY

As our Stephen Minister training continues, we are grateful for the strong foundation our trainees have already built since beginning in late September. They have been growing in Christ-centered caregiving through learning to listen deeply, honor emotions, care distinctively as Christians, trust God with the outcomes, and relate to others with gentle, respectful assertiveness. These faithful servants are being shaped to offer compassionate presence and hope, trusting God as the true Curegiver in every relationship.

Over the next few weeks, their training will guide them even further into the practical and spiritual responsibilities of caregiving. They will learn how to maintain healthy boundaries, understand and respond to people in crisis, and uphold strict confidentiality to create a safe space of trust and healing. They will also explore how to provide care between visits using appropriate communication tools and how to work alongside mental health professionals and community resources when additional support is needed.

Please continue to hold our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as God equips them to serve with wisdom, humility, and Christ-like love.

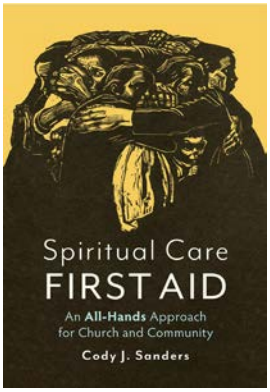
If there are any questions, feel free to reach out to any of our trainees, or myself

Rob Mundroff – Stephen Leader of Stephen Ministries Program at RLC

Spiritual First Aid

Most of us have been trained in physical first aid (CPR, AEDs, Rescue Breathing, Heimlich Maneuver). We know what to do for scrapes, burns, choking, or when someone stops breathing — and that knowledge can save lives. But what happens when the injury isn't visible, when the wound is spiritual or emotional?

Coming Soon, we (Pastor Smith & Rob Mundroff) will offer a new 2 week Sunday School class based on the book *Spiritual Care First Aid* by Cody J. Sanders, a practical guide to basic spiritual care skills for everyday Christians. Together we'll learn how to recognize when someone — a friend, family member, co-worker, neighbor, or even ourselves — may be hurting inside, and how to respond with thoughtful presence, empathy, and care.



The goal is to know:

- When and how to talk.
- When simply to listen.
- When it is wise to encourage someone to speak with a pastor, seek a mental health professional, or, in rare cases, get emergency psychological help.

This class is about equipping ourselves to be spiritual-care "first responders," caring for souls as we would for bodies. Watch for more details soon, and plan to join us for this meaningful time of learning and ministry together.

We are looking at the First 2 Sundays in February after church (during Sunday School) this will be open to ALL (High School and above)

If interested please let me know as we are looking to get some books, and possible funding to reduce the costs.

For questions please reach out to Rob Mundroff.

January Anniversaries

1	Amy & Michael Keith, 10 years
22	Cindy & Dave Dankert, 53 years Tracy White-Exner & Dave Exner, 37 years
26	Wendy & Don Jackson, 37 years



Is your birthday or wedding anniversary this month but not listed? Please let us know! Send an email to office@rlcfw.org or call 260-637-5900 so we can get it listed!

January Birthdays

1	Brooks Bentley Levi Bentley
2	Casey Godfrey
3	Jeffrey Spencer
4	Hannah Smith
6	Kelley Bawmann Jennifer Gater Jon Popovich
7	Jordan Schultz
8	Bob Hudson
9	Pat Poinsett
10	Margo Grove
13	Jason Palu
15	Mary Exner
16	Sheila Hudson
17	Nate Weesner Rainier Glassburn
18	Beth Gemlick Dave Martin
19	Joe McCudden
20	Emily Stoll
22	Jean Hoover
23	Cinamon Donley
24	Evan Bosecker Don Kennedy Devany Rauh Natalie Robertson
25	Octavius Hughes
27	Debra Kimbel
29	Sophia Wallace

PRAY FOR



Dot
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnahan
Susie Carnahan
Dema Saxton
Craig
Mary Paonessa
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Denise DuBois
Muriel
Ashton Creek
Caleb
Jeff Wolf
Bill Buesching
Ruby C
Gustave
Annie Wood
Bryan Butzirus
Rose Moya
Shirley
Sandra Bruce
Marc Young
Stephen Ministry Trainees
Family of Cindy King
Kevin Rigby

Military Service:
Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Collin Monteith
Dakota Francis
Jon Popovich
Matthew Gephart
Alex Horvath

Homebound:
Cindy Dankert
Cheryl Goble
Pat Norris
Pat Poinsett
Wendy Jackson

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818
260.637.5900
www.rlcfw.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

STAFF	OFFICE HOURS
Rev. William H. Smith prsmith@rlcfw.org	Monday | Wednesday: 10:30am – 5pm Tuesday: Sermon prep day: Out of office Thursday: 10:30am – 3pm Nursing home worship: 4pm – 5pm Sunday: All day at RLC
Office office@rlcfw.org	Monday – Thursday: 9am – 2pm
Sue Smith youth@rlcfw.org	Monday: 10am – 2pm Wednesday: By appointment Sunday: All day at RLC
Robin Wessley accts@rlcfw.org	Tuesday

Church Council Members and Ministry Team Leaders

Pastor:
Rev. William H. Smith

Council President:
Dave Avery

Vice President:
Sue Shilts

Council Secretary:
Kelley Bawmann

Financial Secretary:
Esther Meyers

Treasurer:
Darlene Lebrecht

At Large 1:
Kay Humbert

At Large 2:
Zach Braun

Evangelism:
OPEN

Stewardship:
Team in place

Social Ministry:
OPEN

Fellowship:
Diann Williams & Julie Sonnenberg

Property:
Team in place

Worship & Music:
Team in place

Youth:
Sue Smith

Education:
Team in place

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
9am – 2pm

After church hours?

Leave a message or call Pastor Smith at 260.409.6971

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30am
In Person Worship with Communion every Sunday

10:45am Faith Formation
September – May

9:30am live-streamed on our Facebook page:
https://facebook.comrlcfw

Articles for the next month's newsletter are due by the 26th of each month, if you have something you would like to add, please email it to office@rlcfw.org